

(a) forming a ceramic slip comprising a substantially homogeneous mixture of a ceramic particulate, an organic binder in a liquid carrier, and optionally one or more surfactant, wherein at least one surfactant is present if the organic binder does not function as a surfactant;

(b) foaming the ceramic slip using a ball mill; and

(c) heating the foamed ceramic slip at a temperature sufficient to substantially burn out the organic binder.

Please replace claims 3, 8, 13, 15, 19, 25, 26 and 27 with the following amended claims.

C 3 3(Amended). A method as claimed in claim 2, wherein the balls of the milling media have a diameter in the range of from 10 to 30 mm.

C 3 8(Twice Amended). A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the ceramic particulate has a d_{50} of from 1 to 300 μm .

C 4 13(Amended). A method as claimed in claim 12, wherein the organic binder is present in the liquid carrier in an amount of from 0.5 to 6 w/v%.

C 5 15(Amended). A method as claimed in claim 14, wherein the ceramic slip comprises from 20 to 90 w/v% ceramic particulate.

C 6 19(Twice Amended). A method as claimed in claim 17, wherein the concentration of the organic binder in the liquid carrier is selected such that the percentage of binder remaining after substantially all of the liquid carrier has been evaporated is from 0.5 to 10 w/w%.

25. (Twice Amended) A method as claimed in claim 23, wherein the sintered ceramic foam has a bulk porosity in the range of from 40 to 95%.

26. (Twice Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the sintered ceramic foam has a strut density in the range of from 60 to 95% of the theoretical density of the ceramic.

27. (Twice Amended) A method as claimed in claim 23, wherein the sintered ceramic foam has a modal pore size in the range of from 100 to 2000 μm .

Please add the following new claims to the application.

32(New). A method of producing a synthetic bone material as claimed in claim 1, wherein the ceramic slip preferably has a viscosity in the range of from 15 to 200 mPas.

33(New). A method as claimed in claim 8, wherein the ceramic particulate has a d_{50} of from 1 to 15 μm .

34(New). A method as claimed in claim 3, wherein the balls of the milling media have a diameter in the range of from 15 to 25 mm.

35(New). A method as claimed in claim 13, wherein the organic binder is present in the liquid carrier in an amount of from 0.5 to 4 w/v%.

36(New). A method as claimed in claim 15, wherein the ceramic slip comprises from 40 to 80 w/v% ceramic particulate.

37(New). A method as claimed in claim 25, wherein the sintered ceramic foam has a bulk porosity in the range of from 70 to 90%.

38. (New) A method as claimed in claim 26, wherein the sintered ceramic foam has a strut density in the range of from 70 to 90% of the theoretical density of the ceramic.

39(New). A method as claimed in claim 27, wherein the sintered ceramic foam has a modal pore size in the range of from 100 to 1000 μm .